Health care at door steps

*92. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Apollo Hospital would bring health care at door steps", which appeared in The Asian Age, dated the 23rd December, 2002;

(b) if so, why premier Government hospitals all over the country do not adopt a similar policy;

(c) whether Government have drawn out any policy in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATISUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e)The Apollo Group of Hospitals is reported to be setting up a chain of day-to-day health care clinics in select cities to provide diagnostic facilities, services of specialists, preventive health checks and pharmaceutical services at fixed charges. The Apollo Group has set up 5 clinics in National Capital Region of Delhi so far, and 1 in Ahmedabad.

The Central Government has put in place a most extensive network of primary health care facilities, which are managed by State Governments in terms of operational functioning. Additionally, the Central Government funds a number of national disease control prorammes across the country; has some premier super speciality medical institutes, runs over 300 CGHS dispensaries.

Since health is a State subject, State Governments do complement and supplement these centrally sponsored programmes with diverse initiatives in response to emerging needs, priorities and resources available. Since there is often a resource crunch at state levels, there are inequities and imbalances in the provisioning of health care products and services in remote rural areas.